

Status of Wildlife and Conservation Areas in Zimbabwe and Recommendations for Recovery



Kathleen H. Fitzgerald, Vice President Conservation Strategy
World Bank Land and Poverty Meeting. March 2014

African Wildlife Foundation

Mission: To work together with the people of Africa to ensure that wildlife and wild lands of Africa endure forever.



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Land and Habitat Conservation Program

- **Goal:** Protect key wildlife habitats, core areas and corridors, strengthen and expand existing protected areas.

- **Tools and Approaches Used**

- a) Support to Protected Areas
- b) Participatory Land Use Planning and Zoning in Community areas
- c) Forest Conservation Including REDD and Other Carbon Instruments
- d) Legal and Economic Instruments e.g. Leases
- e) Establish Land Conservation Trusts
- f) Payment for Ecosystem Services
- g) Land Policy Advocacy
- h) Direct Purchase





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Zimbabwe



- 1980 Independence
- Highest Literacy in Africa (92%)
- Size Montana (390,757 km²)
- 12,523,000 People
- Leading conservation country a decade ago
- Large elephant population: 75,000
- Had the largest concentration of the black rhino species
- Political instability key cause of decline in conservation



Assessment of Conservation Estate

AWF Produced: A Review of Relevant Statutes and an Assessment of Protected Areas, Conservancies and the Implications of the Indigenisation Policy. September 2011.

- Protected Areas
- CAMPFIRE Areas
- Conservancies

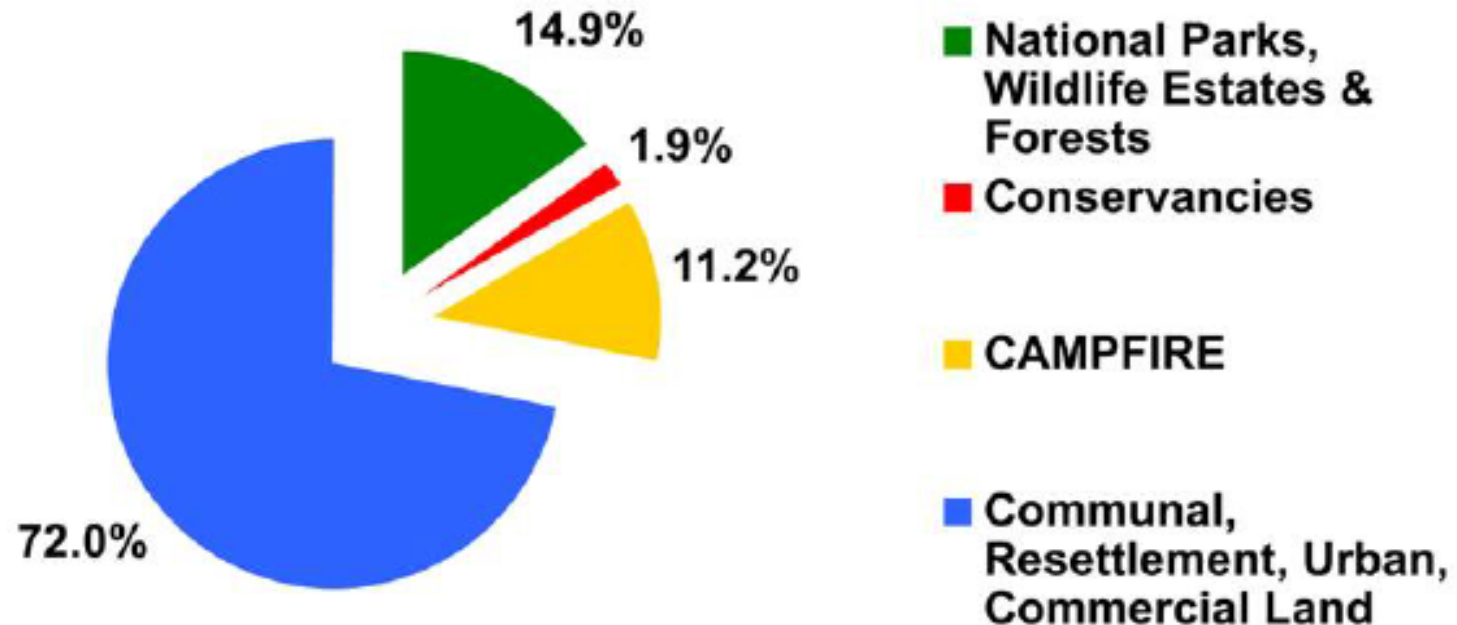
Parks and Wildlife Act 1996; Wildlife Based Land Reform Policy (1992); Rural District Councils Act 2002; Land Acquisition Act 1992; Land Occupation Conditions Act 1979; Constitution of Zimbabwe (amended September, 2005)



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Conservation Estate

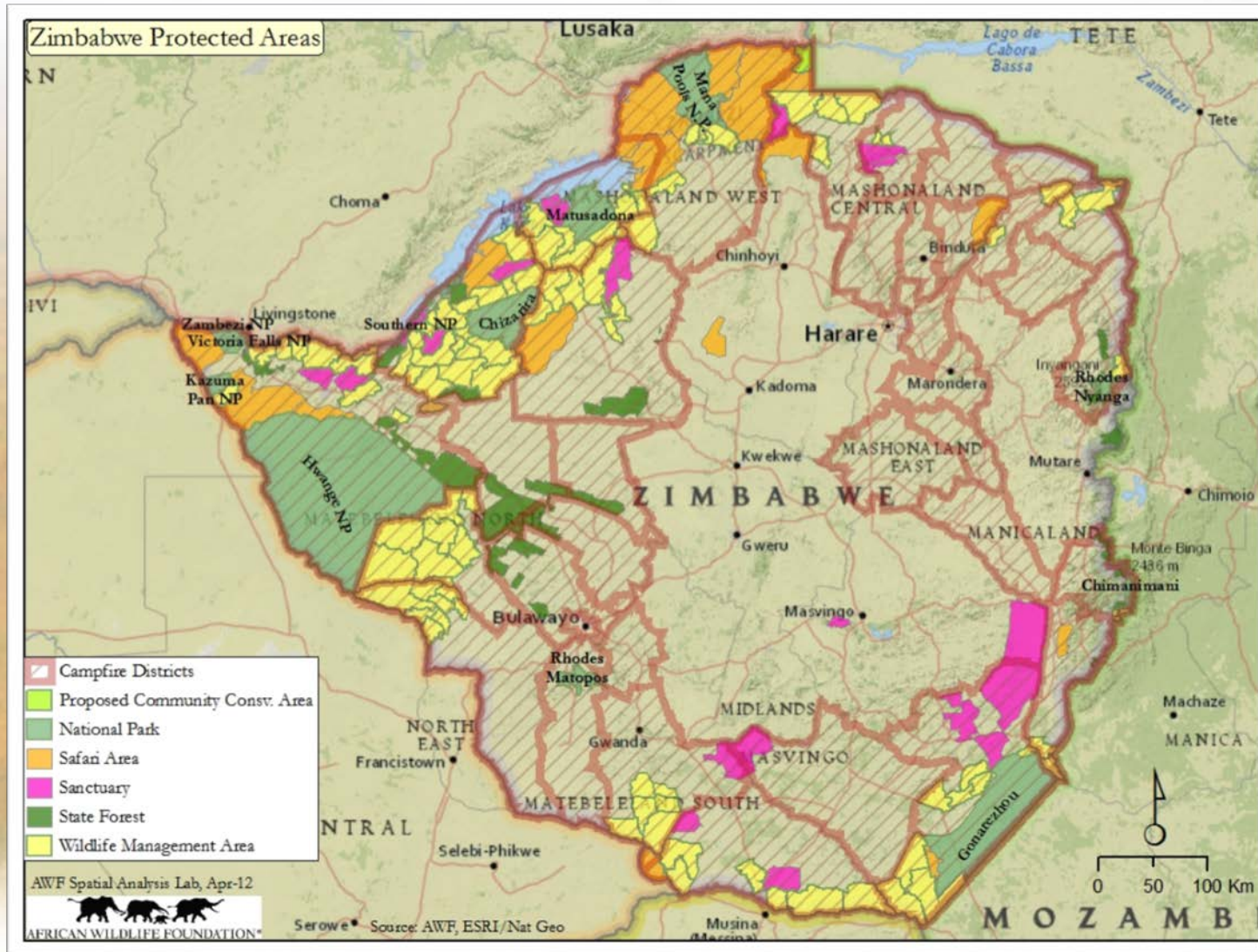
Approximately 28% Zimbabwe was under wildlife conservation.



National Parks control 26.1 % and the Conservancies 1.9 % of Zimbabwe.

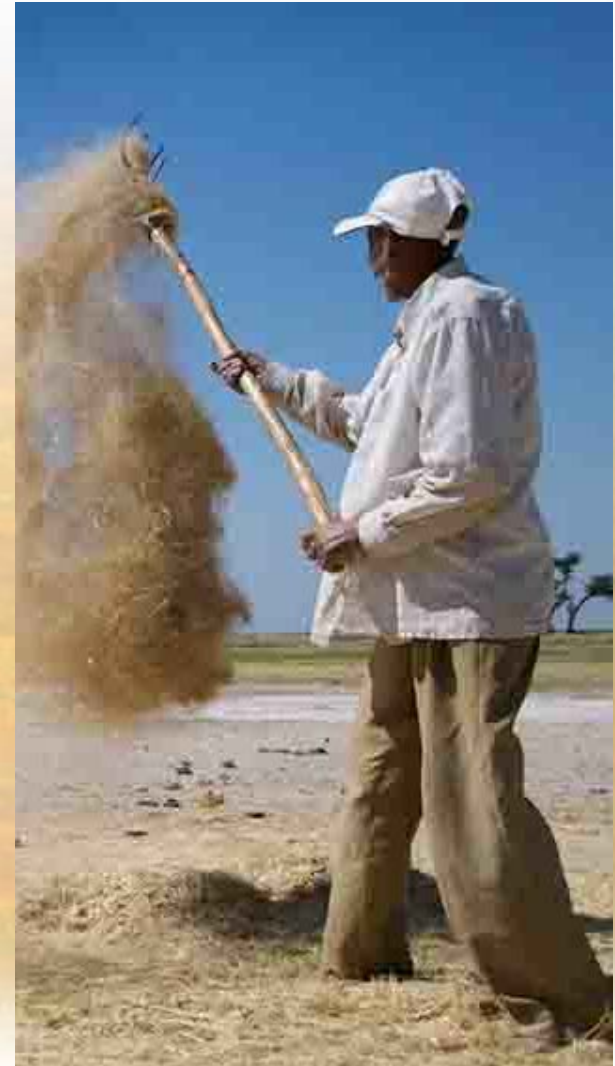
National Environmental Policy 2003.

Protected Areas



Land Reform Program and Relevant Policies

- **Phase 1 LRP:** 1980 – 1997.
71,000 families resettled, 3.5M hectares
- **1992. Land Acquisition Act.** Empowered government compulsory acquisition compensation 'within reasonable period' for improvements.
- **Phase 2 LRP:** 1998-2000.
4,097 families resettled, 200,000 hectares
- **2000 Referendum on Constitution.**
- **2000 Constitutional Amendment.** No compensation required unless paid by former Colonial power.
- **Fast Track :** 2000 – Today.
134,452 families resettled, 6.3M hectares
- **2005.** Constitution Amended. Nationalized land.



Indigenisation

Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Act [CAP 14:33] 2007

Objective: “To ensure that at least 51% of the shares of every public company and any other business shall be owned by indigenous Zimbabweans.”

“Indigenisation” ... a deliberate involvement of indigenous Zimbabweans in the economic activities ...to which ... they had no access, so as to ensure the equitable ownership of the nation’s resources.

“Indigenous Zimbabwean” any person who, before 18th April 1980, was disadvantaged by unfair discrimination on the grounds of his/her race and any descendant of such person, and includes any company, association, syndicate or partnership of which indigenous Zimbabweans form the majority of members or hold the controlling interest.

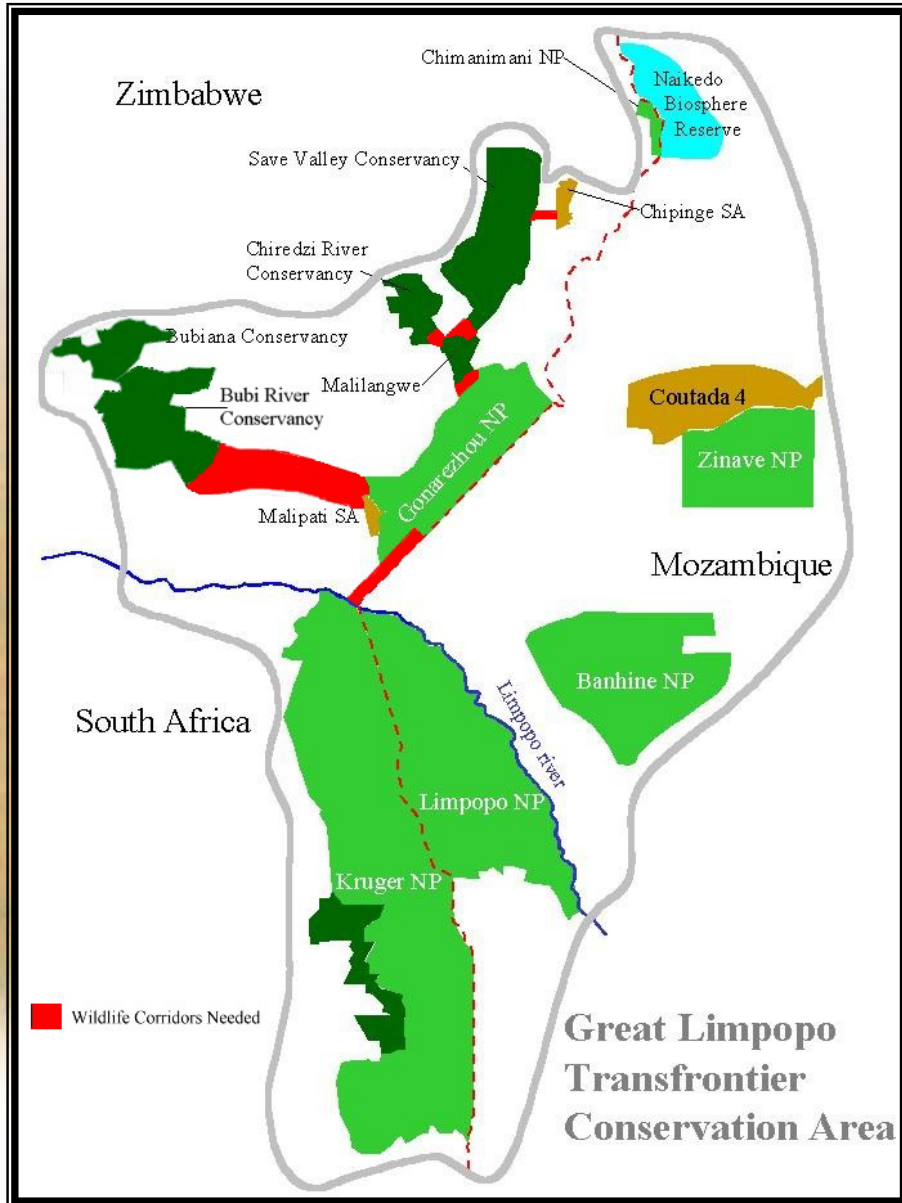


Zimbabwe Conservancy

Conservancy: Any number of properties which are amalgamated into a single complex in order to enable more effective management, utilization and protection of natural resources.

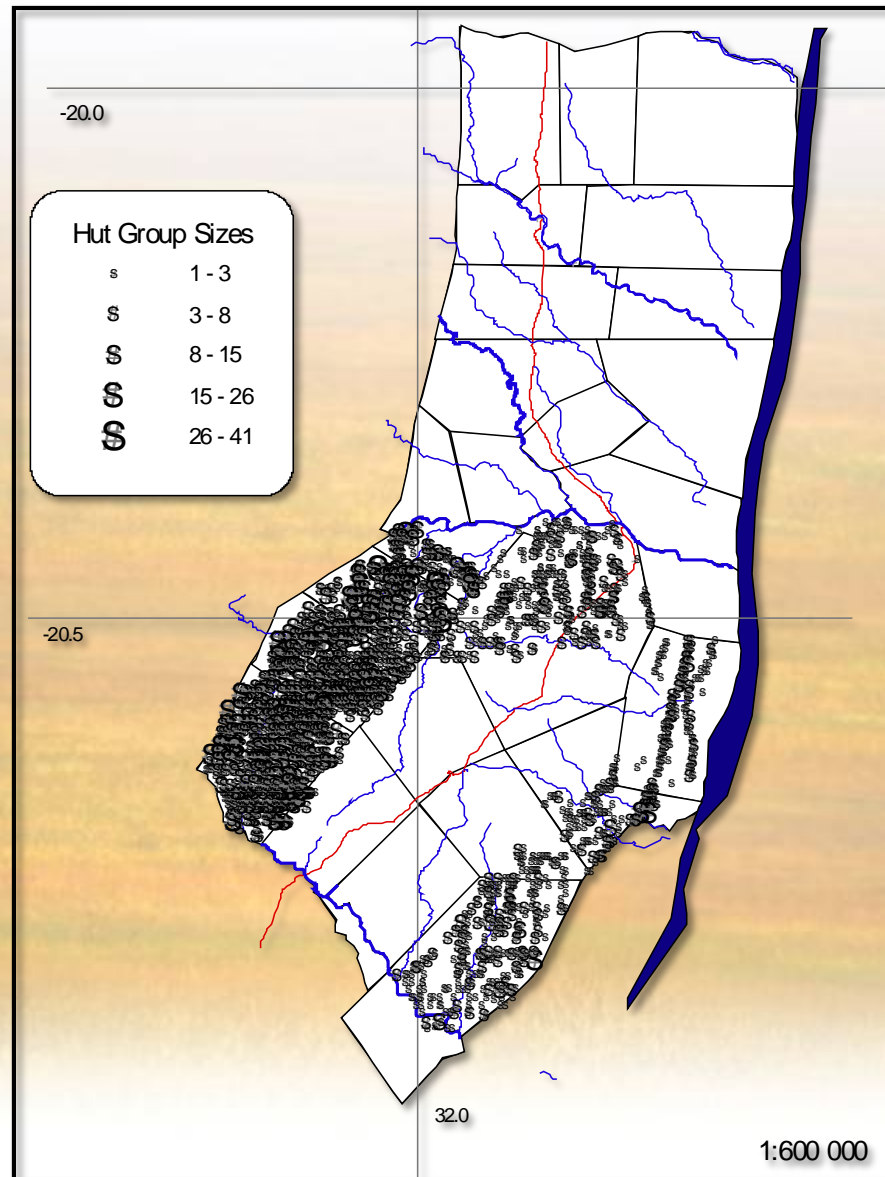


Save Valley Conservancy



- Part of the Greater Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area
- 320,000 hectares
- Founded 1990
- Over 130 rhinos on SVC.
- Increasing lion and wild dog population

Resettlement in SVC



Value of Conservancies

- Complement state owned/run PAs
- Diversify tourism product by offering a different type of tourism experience.
- Allows for integrated conservation and land use models where livestock keeping is practiced alongside wildlife conservation and tourism.
- Enables direct engagement and empowerment of communities and private landowners to generate revenue from conservation.



Conservancy Success Factors

- Well defined property/wildlife and/or user rights.
- Meaningful engagement of communities.
- Vibrant tourism economy at conservancy and national level.
- Parties enjoy benefits by investing resources and assuming a level of risk.
- Business model & plans to ensure operations and management costs are met.
- Professional, well-resourced conservancy management.
- Strong by-laws/constitutions to ensure good governance.
- Separation between the conservancy operational management and owners.
- Diversity of tourism products.



Vision for Save Valley Conservancy

- Empower and meaningfully incorporate the local surrounding communities.
- Increase the area under conservation resulting in an expanded and improved SVC.
- Incorporate strong economic incentives to create a competitive and dynamic tourism product.
- Put Zimbabwe and SVC back on the map as prime tourism destinations.
- Create a well-resourced, representative and professionally managed conservancy management company.



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Principles

Empowerment of Local Communities

- Meaningful Engagement
- Capacity Development
- Substantial Benefits

Best Practices

- Conservation
- Enterprise

Sustainability

- Economic
- Social
- Ecological



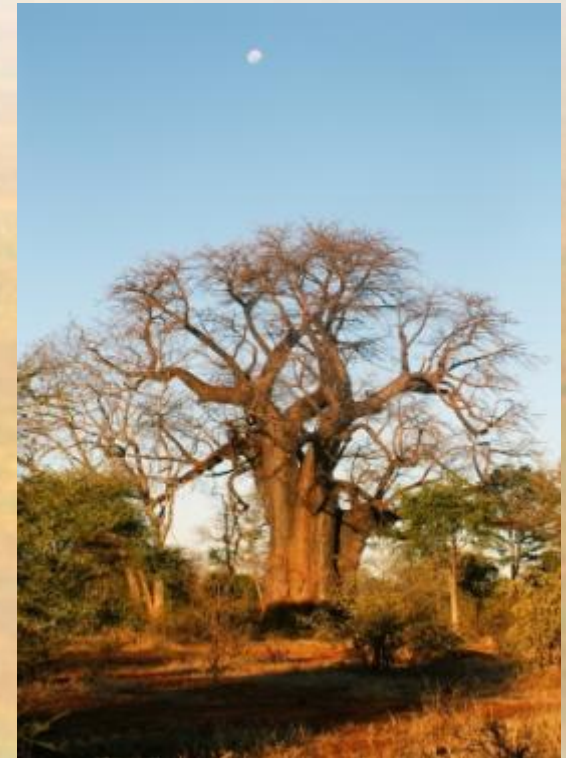
Indigenisation

This model brings together:

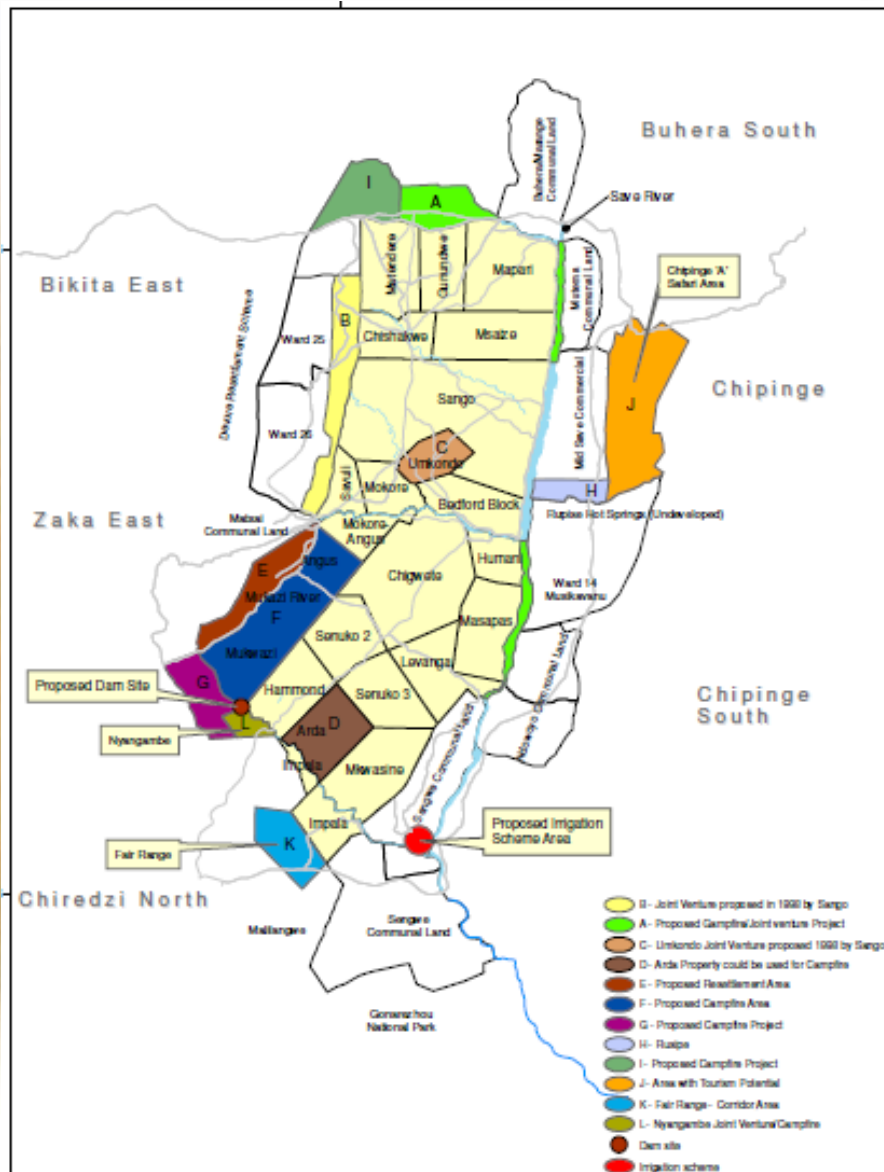
1. Original SVC members;
2. Government of Zimbabwe and ARDA;
3. Communities in & immediately around SVC; and
4. Private indigenous investors.

Indigenisation at 3 levels:

1. Conservancy operating company
2. Conservancy revenue allocation
3. Related enterprises



Conservancy Membership



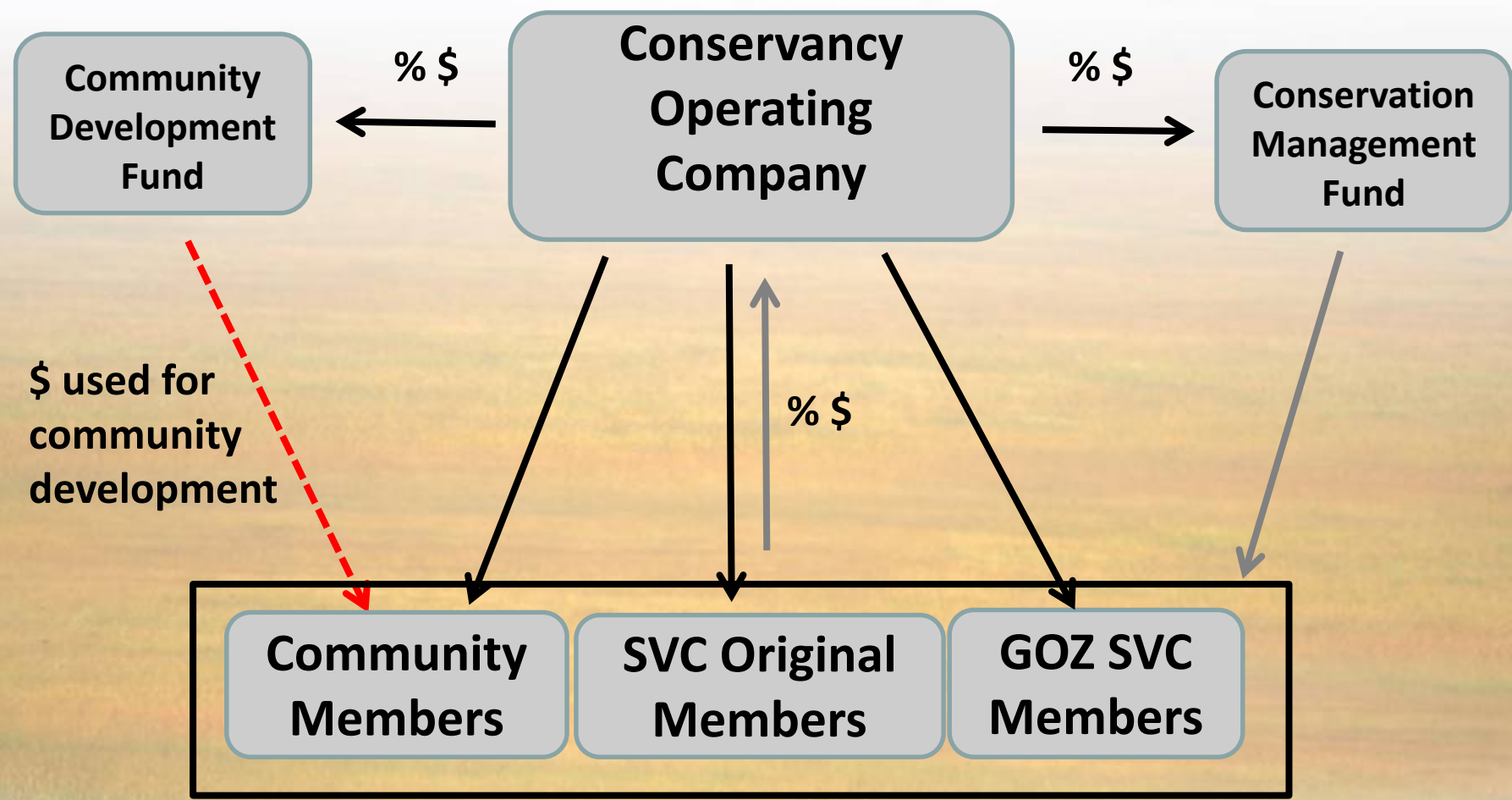
- Enlarged Conservancy with new membership.
- Occupier of each distinct land unit has opportunity to become a member (shareholder)
- Each occupier allocated 1 share / 1,000 hectares

Shareholders (Current):

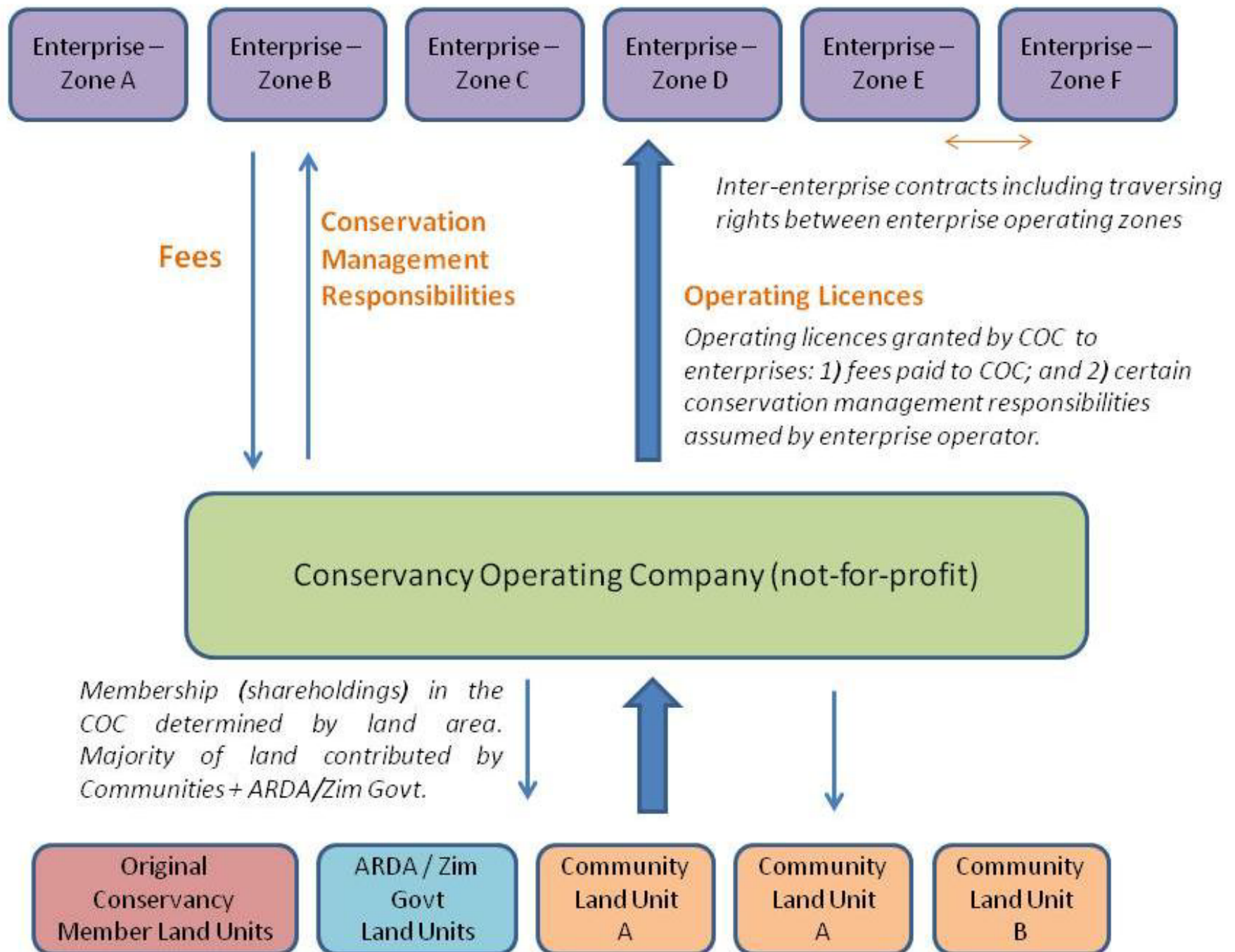
- Community (33%)
- GOZ (5%)
- Original Conservancy Members (62%)



Use of Funds



\$ returns to SVC members, driven by land unit for property level conservation (**max 49% to original members**).



What Next?





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